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Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as set forth below without prejudice to applicant pursuing one or more of the claims as originally filed in a continuation application.

Claims 1-9. (Previously Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) A medical device comprising:

a flexible member;

an end effector operatively associated with a distal end of the flexible member; and

a handle operatively associated with the proximal end of the flexible member;

wherein the handle comprises an actuator for operating the end effector through the flexible member, wherein the proximal end of the flexible member is fixed relative to the handle, and wherein the flexible member extends from a single end of the handle; and

wherein an outer surface of the handle is sized and shaped to be gripped by a single hand and wherein the actuator is disposed on the handle to be operated by the same hand holding the handle without the use of the thumb or index finger of the same hand, while the thumb and index finger of the same hand are free to grip and advance the flexible member.

11. (Previously presented) The device of claim 10 wherein the end effector is selected from the group consisting of a biopsy forceps, grasping forceps, surgical scissors, extractors, washing pipes, needle injectors, non energized snares, and electrosurgical snares.

12. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 10 wherein the flexible member has a length of at least 0.5 meter.

13. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 10 wherein the flexible member has a flexible shaft having a length of at least 1.0 meter.

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14. (previously amended) The device of claim 10 wherein the handle has a proximal end, a distal end, and an outer surface, the handle outer surface having a maximum width dimension disposed intermediate the proximal and distal ends of the handle.

15. (previously amended) The device of Claim 10 wherein the actuator comprises a lever adapted to be squeezed between fingers of the same hand and a housing portion of the handle, and wherein the lever is pivotably supported adjacent an end of the handle associated with the flexible member.

16. (Previously presented) A system for operating a flexible endoscopic device with one hand comprising:

- an end effector;

- a handle;

- a flexible shaft extending intermediate the end effector and the handle;

- the handle comprising:

 - a housing adapted to be grasped by a single hand;

 - an actuator associated with the housing and operable by the hand holding the housing to actuate the end effector; wherein at least the thumb and index finger of the same hand holding the housing are free to grip and release the flexible shaft of the device; and

 - a set of instructions for using the handle with a single hand.

17. (Original) The system of Claim 16 wherein the set of instructions includes instruction to hold the handle between the palm and at least one finger other than the index finger and thumb.

18. (previously presented) The system of Claim 16 wherein the set of instructions includes instruction to use the thumb and index finger of the hand holding the handle to grasp the flexible shaft.

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19. (previously presented) The system of Claim 16 wherein the set of instructions includes instruction to advance the flexible shaft using the thumb and index finger of the same hand holding the handle.

20. (Original) The system of Claim 16 wherein the set of instructions includes instruction to grasp the handle with the thumb pointing away from an end of the handle from which the flexible shaft extends.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (previously presented) A medical device comprising:

a handle adapted to be gripped by a single hand;
an elongate, flexible member extending from the handle, the flexible member having a proximal end and a distal end; and
an end effector operatively associated with a distal end of the flexible member;

wherein the handle comprises an actuator for operating the end effector through the flexible member, and wherein the actuator is adapted to be operated by the same hand holding the handle and without use of the thumb or index finger of the same hand; and

wherein the handle comprises a release operable by the thumb or index finger of the same hand holding the handle.

23. (currently amended presented) The medical device of Claim 22 wherein the release is disposed at a first end of the handle and wherein the elongate flexible member extends from a second, opposite end of the handle.

24. (previously presented) The medical device of Claim 23 wherein the actuator is disposed intermediate the release and the second end of the handle.

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25. (previously presented) The medical device of Claim 22 wherein the actuator is operable for closing the end effector and wherein the release is operable for opening the end effector.

26. (previously presented) The medical device of Claim 22, wherein the medical device further comprises a ratchet mechanism, and wherein the release is adapted to disengage the ratchet mechanism.